



DRAFT MINUTES

PUBLIC UTILITIES, ENERGY, AND TECHNOLOGY INTERIM COMMITTEE

LEGISLATURE

Tuesday, September 15, 2020 | 1:30 p.m. | 30 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Ronald Winterton, Chair
Rep. Carl R. Albrecht, Chair
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Derek L. Kitchen
Sen. Ralph Okerlund
Sen. Scott D. Sandall
Rep. Patrice M. Arent
Rep. Walt Brooks
Rep. Scott H. Chew
Rep. Steve R. Christiansen

Rep. Kay J. Christofferson
Rep. Joel Ferry
Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Marie H. Poulson
Rep. Jeffrey D. Stenquist
Rep. Keven J. Stratton

Staff Present:

Sarah J. Balland, Policy Analyst
Rikka Strong, Associate General Counsel
Lorna Wells, Committee Secretary

Note: A copy of related materials and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.leg.utah.gov.

Chair Albrecht called the meeting to order at 1:47 p.m.

1. Committee Business

MOTION: Rep. Stratton moved to approve the minutes of the August 18, 2020 interim meeting. The motion passed with a vote of 11 - 0 - 5.

Yeas-11

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. P. Arent
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. K. Christofferson
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. M. Poulson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. J. Stenquist
Rep. K. Stratton

Nays-0

Absent-5

Rep. S. Christiansen
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Kitchen
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. R. Winterton

In accordance with Joint Rule 7-1-602, Chair Albrecht indicated that the Chairs have jointly opened committee bill file 2021FL0538, Public Utilities Commission Amendments, pertaining to the 2019 Utah Supreme Court Case, Utah Office of Consumer Services v. Public Service Commission of Utah, regarding the interim rate procedure for an energy balancing account process. He also discussed other reports that are in the "Related Links" area of the committee's web page.

Sarah Balland explained the process for making public comment.

Chair Albrecht took a personal privilege to note the hurricane-force wind event that took place along the Wasatch Front on September 8, 2020, and expressed appreciation to Rocky Mountain Power, the municipal electric systems, electric cooperatives, and all of the out-of-state utilities that helped with restoring power after the storm. He also encouraged the various utility sectors to establish mutual aid agreements so they can be best prepared to work together during times of disaster when power needs to be restored.



Rep. Carol Spackman Moss echoed Chair Albrecht's comments and discussed power outages that occurred in her legislative district, as well as frustrations she heard from constituents pertaining to their desire for more frequent updates from utility providers.

2 . Telegovernment Study and Report

Rep. Lyman discussed HJR 14 "Telegovernment Study and Report".

[2 - HJR14 Telegov Report, Joint Study \(Presentation\) Rev.pdf](#)

John Cannon, Director, Legislative Research and General Counsel, discussed the necessity of immediately implementing virtual meetings and processes toward the end of the 2020 General Session to prepare for Legislative Interim and Special Sessions, and noted the tremendous efforts of the IT staff to do so.

Doug Farr, Legislative IT Staff, presented on the evolution of new virtual processes between March and September 2020, thanked the IT team for their hard work to implement everything that was required to conduct electronic meetings, and thanked legislators for their patience as all of the new processes were implemented. He also noted the important partnership that Legislative IT has with the Utah Education and Telehealth Network (UETN) team.

Jeff Egly, Associate Director, UETN, presented on the evolution of new virtual processes that UETN and Legislative IT Staff worked to achieve between March and September 2020, and explained how Cisco Webex Events is a good fit for legislative proceedings.

Several committee members expressed appreciation and thanks to Legislative IT Staff, Legislative Research and General Counsel, and UETN.

Rep. Arent expressed appreciation to all of the teams involved, particularly the most recent move to live public comment. She suggested improvements to ensuring an accurate vote tracking system when meetings are conducted in a hybrid format.

Rep. Lyman concluded his presentation.

3 . Stray Current and Voltage Impacts to Livestock Review & Intermountain Power Plant's Coal Usage

Dan Eldredge, General Manager, Intermountain Power Agency, introduced the topic to the committee by discussing 2018 General Session H.B. 318 "Stray Current or Voltage Remediation Act", which enacted the Stray Current and Voltage Impacts to Livestock Review.

Jon Christensen, Superintendent of Operations/Manager of Special Projects, Intermountain Power Plant and Service Corporation (IPP), presented the peer-reviewed research results regarding what the stray current and voltage industry standards are and whether there have been any changes. The reviewers conclude that Utah's stray current and voltage levels are consistent with scientific research and industry standards today.

[3 - Stray Current Livestock Review, Dan Eldredge \(Report\)](#)

Committee members asked questions.

Chair Albrecht and committee members shifted to discussing IPP's out-of-state coal usage.

Dan Eldredge and Jon Christensen discussed IPP's coal usage and answered questions from the committee.

MOTION: Sen. Winterton moved that the committee study Intermountain Power Plant's usage of out-of-state coal to explore whether potential legislation is needed for the 2021 General Session.
The motion passed with a vote of 16 - 0 - 0.

Yeas-16

Nays-0

Absent-0

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. P. Arent
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Christiansen
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Kitchen
Rep. C. Moss
Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. M. Poulson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. J. Stenquist
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. R. Winterton

Rep. Stratton inquired about an appropriate timeline for Sen. Winterton's motion for the committee to study IPP's usage of out-of-state coal, suggesting that the committee follow-up on the item during its October or November interim meeting.

4 . UAMPS and the Carbon Free Power Project

Mike Squires, Government Affairs Director, Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems, discussed the Carbon Free Power Project.

[4 - Carbon Free Power Project Update, UAMPS \(Presentation\).pdf](#)

Several committee members asked questions about the Carbon Free Power Project.

Rusty Cannon, Utah Taxpayers Association, spoke in opposition to UAMPS member cities' further investment in the Carbon Free Power Project from a financial risk perspective, due to the costs that could be borne by ratepayers and taxpayers of these member cities because of increased costs and recent withdrawals from the project by two member cities.

George Chapman, Public Safety Advocate, provided public comment on the status of the Carbon Free Power Project.

5 . 2019-15 - A Performance Audit of Utah Communications Authority and 911 Operations

Brian Dean, Deputy Auditor General, gave an introduction to the two audits regarding the Utah Communications Authority (UCA) and 911 Operations.

[Items 5 & 6 - UCA & 911 Audits, OLAG \(Presentation\)](#)

Jake Dinsdale, Audit Supervisor, gave a brief recap of the 2019 audit as well as the 2020 follow-up audit.

[5b - Audit Report #2019-15, Leg. Auditor General \(Presentation\)](#)

[6b - Audit Report #2020-06, Leg. Auditor General \(Presentation\)](#)

6 . 2020-06 - An In-Depth Follow-Up of 911 Audits and Review of 911 Staffing (OLAG) and Matrix Consulting Group's 2019 Performance Audit of SLC 911 (Salt Lake City)



[6c - Performance Audit of 911 and Non-Emergency Dispatch Services, Matrix Consulting Group \(Agenda Item Background Information\)](#)

Committee members discussed this item further.

George Chapman, Public Safety Advocate, discussed findings from the Matrix Consulting Group audit.

[6d - SLC 911 Matrix Consulting Audit Presentation, George Chapman \(presentation\)](#)

Lisa Burnette, Director, Salt Lake City 911, addressed the comments made by George Chapman and presented on how SLC 911 has responded to the Matrix Consulting Group's audit recommendations.

[6e - SLC 911 Fact Sheet, Lisa Burnette \(presentation\)](#)

[6f - SLC 911 Addresses Mr. Chapman's Concerns, Lisa Burnette \(presentation\)](#)

Committee members discussed this item further.

MOTION: Sen. Sandall moved to adjourn. The motion passed with a vote of 14 - 0 - 2.

Yeas-14

Rep. C. Albrecht
Rep. P. Arent
Rep. W. Brooks
Rep. S. Chew
Rep. S. Christiansen
Rep. K. Christofferson
Rep. J. Ferry
Sen. D. Hinkins
Sen. D. Kitchen
Rep. C. Moss
Rep. M. Poulson
Sen. S. Sandall
Rep. K. Stratton
Sen. R. Winterton

Nays-0

Absent-2

Sen. R. Okerlund
Rep. J. Stenquist

Chair Albrecht adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.